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Ex-CIA Agent Wants To 'Agitate' Government

By MARY NIEDERBERGER

Ralph McGehee, a CIA agent for 25 years, said he is spending his retirement trying to "agitate" the government agency that once employed him.

McGehee, author of "Deadly Deceits: My 25 years in the CIA," claims the CIA is not an intelligence agency but "a covert action agency that supports other governments."

He said one of the Central Intelligence Agency's major activities is circulating misinformation, and its target audience is the American people.

"The longest-lived piece of misinformation is the CIA trying to represent itself as an intelligence agency," said McGehee, who is in town to speak at the University of Pittsburgh at 8 tonight at the Graduate School of Public Health auditorium.

McGehee, whose CIA career sent him to Taiwan, Vietnam, Japan, Thailand and the Philippines, said the CIA admits to a certain amount of covert activities but represents itself to the public mainly as an intelligence-gathering agency.

"If they were really trying to get information, things could never turn out as bad as they do," McGehee said, referring to examples like the Bay of Pigs incident in 1961 and the hostage takeover in Iran in 1979.

"If they were gathering information, they would have seen these things coming," he said.

The former agent claims the sole purpose of the agency is to overthrow the governments of unstable countries, like El Salvador and Iran, and install new governments. He claims the CIA supports these countries so the U.S. will have access to their resources.

He said takeovers of small unsta-



McGEHEE

ble countries are also the result of a competition between the United States and the Soviet Union.

"They figure they better get in there and do it before Russia does."

McGehee said he was an agent for more than 15 years before he realized that the CIA was suppressing the truth and creating illusions for the American public.

He says he was on an assignment in Thailand in 1967, when the agency told him not to report the truth about conditions there. When he tried to uncover the reason for the gag order, the program he headed was abolished and he was sent back to the United States, he said.

It was at that point, McGehee said, that he realized the CIA was not an intelligence agency. The former agent said his probing into various internal matters cost him job promotions.

He also said that most agents don't realize that they are being "propagandized" while they are creating propaganda.

"There is so much compartmentalization. People only know what they are doing. They only know enough to do the job they have to do," McGehee said.

He said the CIA also feeds misinformation to employees to make them believe that unreal situations exist and that there is justification for the course of action prescribed by the agency.

He said the CIA looks for a certain personality type when hiring agents — an extrovert who has a rigid view of the world and an adaptable disposition.

Once these people are brought into the organization and trained, their "ability to look outside the secret world is limited," McGehee said.

McGehee retired in 1977 and since that time has been researching, writing and trying to clear his books with the CIA.

McGehee said he spent more than a year trying to fight several attempts to censor the book.